DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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"We March Against England"

— Sing Bonn's 1954 Soldiers

(From "Soldatenzeitung", Newspaper of West German Soldiers Association)

From Our West German Correspondent

Bonn, March 15th – Nazi soldiers' songs, including "Wir fahren gegen England" (We March Against England) and "Siegreich wollen wir Frankreich schlagen" (Victoriously We Shall Defeat France) echoed in wine shops and bars in the West German capital last night, as 200 former officers and men of Hitler's Wehrmacht wound up a three day conference of the Association of German Soldiers.

The delegates, who came from all parts of West Germany, had discussed problems of "rehabilitating the unsmirched honour of the German soldier", and how to attract young people into the new West German Wehrmacht.

Representatives of the West German Government and of both the government and opposition parties in Parliament attended the conference, which was marked by a feeling of victory now that the West German authorities have officially approved conscription to a new Wehrmacht.

Dr Hermann Ehlers, Chairman of the West German Parliament, who served throughout World War Two as battery commander in Hitler's artillery told the assembled militarists:

"The world should know that our patience is becoming exhausted in the question of the war sentencees (neo-nazi expression for war criminals, ed.). We German soldiers have a right to be treated with the proper respect at home and abroad."

Franz Josef Strauss, Minister without Portfolio in the West German Government, was cheered to the echo when he said that there must be "a continuity of tradition" between the German soldiers of World War Two and the German soldiers of the future. "The duties the future German soldier will face will be the same as those faced by the older generation of soldiers" he said. Herr Strauss was an officer in the nazi Wehrmacht and served in Denmark, Italy and on the eastern front.

The delegates elected war criminal Field Marshal Erich von Manstein as an honorary member. Von Manstein was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in December 1949 by

(continued on next page)

"HONOURABLE BURIAL" FOR BEAST OF BELSEN

West Germany is spending 30,000 marks on giving "more honourable burial" to 91 concentration camp guards executed as war criminals by the British authorities, the "Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung" reported on March 5th.

The money for the exhumation from the yard of Hamelin prison and subsequent reburial with full honours will be provided by the state of Lower Saxony. President of Lower Saxony is Herr Hinrich Kopf, sought by the Polish authorities for war crimes committed in occupied Poland. The British occupation authorities have stated they have "no objection" to removal.

One of the bodies to receive "honourable burial" is that of Josef Kramer, also known as the "beast of Belsen". Kramer was in command of the Belsen death camp when it was liberated by British troops in April 1945.

On November 16th 1945, Josef Kramer was sentenced to death for war crimes by a British Military Court presided over by Major General H. P. M. Berney-Ficklin. Here is what Colonel T. M. Backhouse told the court about Josef Kramer and the concentration camp under his command:

"When the camp was liberated by British troops there were appalling

(continued on next page)

(cont. from front page)

"Against England"

a British Military Court, after he had been found guilty of executing partisans and participation in the murder of many Jews and Gypsies. He admitted in evidence that he had recommended for the Iron Cross members of the nazi security forces who shot 1200 civilians in the Crimea. Manstein was released "on medical grounds" in August 1952.

Leading West German personalities who attended the conference and applauded the speeches included Hinrich Kopf, war criminal and Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, and Hans von Merkatz, German Party leader implicated in the murder of a British diplomat. (Biographies of Kopf, Merkatz and dozens of other leaders in West Germany today will be found on pages 44 and 45 of this issue).

(cont. from front page)

BELSEN BEAST

conditions of overcrowding — 900 to 1000 persons were crammed into huts in which there was only normal space for 20. In these huts the living, the dying and the dead were heaped together, and there were no fewer than 13,000 unburied corpses . . .

"Despite all that could be done for the survivors immediately after liberation, hundreds died daily and, in addition to the 13,000 corpses found when the camp was liberated, another 13,000 died from the effects of starvation and maltreatment in the next six weeks."

• • •

A group of British Members of Parliament tabled a motion criticising the reburial with honours of these criminals and adding: "This House is of the opinion that such arrogant repudiation of guilt proves Germany to be still unfit to take her place in the community of civilised nations."

Britain Trains Goering's Pilot

One of the nazi pilots now being trained on modern machines at Hamble in England used to be personal pilot to Hermann Goering.

The pilot, Johannes Rathje, aged 47, was sentenced to five years imprisonment as a war criminal by an American military court in 1947.

Sanctuary for Called-Up West Germans

The East German Government has offered sanctuary to all West German youths who do not wish to be called up for the new West German Wehrmacht.

The Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic announced this officially on March 4th, in a statement saying:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is aware that the young people of West Germany do not want to die for the interests of foreign and German monopolists and big landowners. The Government of the German Democratic Republic therefore declares that all men from West Germany and West Berlin who flee conscription into the West German mercenary army will be treated as citizens with full equal rights in the German Democratic Republic, and will receive all necessary assistance."

What They Said About the Wehrmacht

The men who will command the new West German Wehrmacht were, without exception, high ranking officers of Hitler's Wehrmacht. Here are some opinions about them:

"These men were the instruments without which Hitler's will could not have been carried out. And they were more than that. These men were no mere willing tools, although they would have been guilty enough if that been their role. They are the men whose support built Hitler up into the position of power he occupied; they are the men whose initiative and planning perhaps conceived and certainly made possible the acts of agression made in Hitler's name, and they are the men who enabled Hitler to build up the army, navy and air force by which these treacherous attacks were carried out, and to lead his fanatical followers into peaceful countries to mur der, to loot and to destroy.

"They are the men whose cooperation and support made nazi Germany possible . . ."

Sir Hartley Shawcross, Chief British Prosecuting Counsel, Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, December 4th 1945.

"The General Staff and High Command planned and carried through manifold acts of aggression which turned Europe into a charnel house and caused the armed forces to be used for foul practices foully executed, of terror, pillage, murder and wholesale slaughter.

"Let no-one say that the military uniform shall be their cloak, or that they may find sanctuary by pleading membership of a profession to which they are an eternal disgrace".

Colonel Telford Taylor, American Prosecution Staff, Nuremberg War Trials, January 4th 1946.

Sixty Divisions

"There is now a tendency in German military planning circles to regard the modest figure of 12 German divisions, laid down by the EDC treaty, as already obsolete and to think in far larger numbers. Very moderate and responsible Governmental circles talk of 12 active and 12 reserve divisions.

"There are, however, also some semi-official German military experts who speak in private of 60 German divisions, to be raised in a few years.

"This they cheerfully say, would not only effectively guarantee the land defence of Western Europe, but also make it possible to withdraw the American and British troops from the Continent. That is an idea which appals and alarms every Frenchman within hearing and gives an uneasy feeling to many British and some Americans."

"Observer," London, February 28th 1954

(N. B. Hitler launched World War Two with a total force of 75 understrength divisons, according to evidence given at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial by Field Marshal Jodl on June 3rd 1946.)

"Sieg Heil" Insult to UN

West German Chancellor Adenauer has appointed a fervent nazi as West German "observer" at the United Nations in New York.

The new observer is Dr. Peter Pfeiffer, a professional diplomat who joined the nazi party in 1941. In 1942 he was German Consul in Algiers when Allied troops landed there, and his last telegram to Berlin stated:

"City is under artillery fire. This is my last telegram. Sieg Heil Fuehrer und Deutschland. Pfeiffer".

In August 1952 a special West German Parliamentary Commission recommended that he should not be used in foreign diplomatic service because of his lurid nazi past.

WEHRMACHT — TODAY & TOMORROW

West German Federal Government

Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor, Foreign Minister, Supreme Commander.
Cabinet includes two SS men, two nazi storm troopers, many militarists and Hitler supporters.

Ministry of the Interior

Minister: Gerhard Schroeder.
Assistant: Dr. Hans Egidi.

Supervises police, air raid precautions and political police.

Head of Section VI b, supervising motorised police: General Gerhard Matzki.

War Office

Camouflaged as "Office for Accomodating Occupation Troops".
War Minister: Theodor Blank.
Adviser: General Hans Speidel.
Staff of 780 persons, twice as many as worked in Hitler's War Ministry in 1934.

Old Soldiers' Associations

1. The "Stahlhelm", paramilitary organisation of frontline soldiers. President: Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. 2. "Association of German Soldiers", with over 3 000 local groups. President: Admiral Gottfried Hansen. 3. More than 500 regimental associations including such groups as "Fuehrer's Escort Division", „Hermann Goering Tank Division" and „Waffen SS Association".

West German Police

Provincial Police Forces (including semi-military mobile squads) . 107,000
Motorised Federal Police . . . 25,000
Federal Frontier Police, armed with tanks, gunboats, anti-aircraft weapon 20,000
Bavarian Frontier Police . . . 5,000
West Berlin Police 17,000
174,000

Frontier Police Sector Commanders:
General Herbert Giese (North)
Major General Hans Bruhn (Centre)
General Hoeffner (South)

Ninety-three percent of the officers in the Frontier Police are former Wehrmacht and Gestapo officers.

German General Staff

(At present camouflaged as part of Blank Office, see above)
Chief: Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger.
Section I: Colonel Count Johann Adolf Kielmannsegg.
Section II: Colonels Fett, Freyer, Flatow and Heuser, and Naval Captain Zenker.
Section III: Colonel Brandstaedter.
Section IV: Colonel Eberhard.
Officers' Selection Board: Lieutenant General Kunzen, Major General Freiherr Smilo von Luettwitz, Major General Freiherr von Gersdorf, Major General Freiherr von Boeselager.
Judicial Department: General Rosenkrantz.

German "Labour Units"

American Zone:
L. S. Co.
(Labour Service Companies) . . 70,000
Commander:
Tank General Erich Brandenburger

British Zone:
G. S. O.
(German Service Organisation) 60,000
Commander:
Colonel Count Gerhard Schwerin

French Zone:
F. A. M. O. T.
(Formations auxiliaires de main d'oeuvre et de transport) 15,000
Commander:
Major Horst von Wangenheim

Total: 145,000

THE NEW WEHRMACHT

Army

The planned West German Army should consist of:

6 Infantry Divisions each 15,600 man strong = 96,600
4 Tank Divisions each 14 600 man strong, consisting of 4 tank battalions, 4 motorised infantry battalions and service troops = 58,400
2 Tank Escort Divisions each 14,700 man strong, with 3 tank battalions and six motorised infantry battalions = 29 400
Total . . . 184 400

12 parallel reserve battalions in training, plus the headquarters troops, etc. would raise total troop strength to 400 000

Corps Commanders: General Hasso von Manteuffel, General Detleffson, Colonel Count Schwerin.

Air Force

The new Luftwaffe should consist of 80 000 officers and men with the following equipment:

Bombers: 10 squadrons each of 3 flights of 25 planes = 750
Day fighters: 4 squadrons of 3 flights of 25 planes = 300
6 squadrons of night fighters, transports etc. = 236
Total . . . 1 286

(Under secret US-West German agreement concluded November 1953 this total should quickly be raised to 2,200 planes, with corresponding expansion in personnel).
Commander: Colonel Heusser.

Navy

The new navy will be 50,000 man strong, equipped with 180 vessels including E-boats and destroyers. A naval Air Arm will be equipped with 50 planes, including helicopters.

All officers in the three services will be former officers of the nazi armed forces.

ROGUES GALLERY

Who's Who of Political, Military & Business Leaders in Re-Nazified West Germany

ABS, Hermann

Leading West German banker, director of Deutsche Bank and 43 companies. Described in 1945 by U. S. Army Department in following words: "One of the leading German financiers, who has amassed huge sums under National Socialism." (Army Orientation Pamphlet 31.110 A.) During the war Abs was director of 40 companies, including many looted by nazis in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Holland. He drew direct profits from the production of "Zyklon" gas used to murder millions in concentration camps. (GR Vol. I, No.7.)

ACHENBACH, Ernst

Chairman, Foreign Policy Commission of the Free Democratic Party, member of West German parliament. During the war was chief of political department of nazi embassy in occupied Paris. On February 15th 1943 he recommended "deportation to east" of 2000 Jews as reprisal for maquis attack. (GR Vol. II, No. 7.)

ADENAUER, Konrad

Chancellor and Foreign Minister of West Germany. After First World War intrigued for separatist Rhineland. In 1929, as member of Prussian Council of State received bribe of one million marks for supporting import tax revision. In 1929 cabled Mussolini: "Your name will be entered in book of history in golden letters." During nazi period: "He did not worry. He pottered about in his garden and tended his roses." (Neue Zeitung, Sept. 16th 1949.) His programme: "Our aim is to liberate our brothers and sisters in the eastern territories." (September 7th 1953.) (GR Vol. II, No. 22.)

von BARGEN, Werner

Minister for Special Duties, Legal Department, West German Foreign Ministry. Served throughout the war in nazi military government in Belgium and France. On April 6th 1944 he cabled Ribbentrop from Paris: "SS Obergruppenfuehrer suggests that Foreign Ministry should obtain a list of suitable persons (for shooting as hostages, ed.) from the Reich Security Office . . ." (GR Vol. I, No. 6.)

BLANK, Theodor

Head of "Office for Accomodating Occupation Troops", de facto War Minister of West German Government. "Christian" trade unionist, served throughout the war as Lieutenant in nazi army. Stated in 1954 that the Waffen SS would be "re-used" in the ranks of the new West German Wehrmacht. ("Deutsche Soldatenzeitung", January 1st 1954.)

BLANKENHORN, Herbert

Head of the Political Department of the West German Foreign Ministry. Joined the nazi party in 1938, and later became Legation Counsellor in Protocol Department of nazi Foreign Ministry. In September 1941 made special trip to Warsaw Ghetto, Vitebsk and Smolensk to study methods of "liquidating" Jews, Poles and Russians. Later involved in nazi espionage in Switzerland, and deported by Swiss police. Still named in Swiss police lists as "undesirable alien".

DETTLEFSEN, General

Designated as corps commander in West German Wehrmacht. Former chief of "Leadership Group" in nazi general staff.

FLICK, Friedrich

Head of the Flick Trust, with participation in most of West German heavy industrial undertakings. Director of Dresdner Bank. Second richest man in West Germany. Sentenced to seven years imprisonment at Nuremberg on December 22nd 1947 for war crimes including "waging aggressive war; exploiting slave labour; being responsible for deaths of thousands of slave labourers; looting in occupied countries; 'aryanisation' of Jewish enterprises."

GEHLEN, General Gustav

Chief of West German Military Intelligence. During the war he headed section "Enemy Armies in the East" on nazi general staff.

GLOBKE, Hans

State Secretary to West German Chancellor Adenauer. Former head of the Department for Racial Questions in nazi Ministry of Interior, and author of official commentary to Nuremberg Laws, which robbed German Jews of all civil rights. During war drafted document proposing annexation of eastern third of France by nazi Germany. (Document RF 602 of Nuremberg Trial.)

GOETZ, Carl

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Dresdner Bank. Named on the list of "Industrial War Criminals" drawn up by Kilgore Committee of US Senate. Official US Occupation newspaper "Allgemeine Zeitung" stated on his arrest on November 4th 1945: "The American military authorities are considering trying these bankers . . . as war criminals . . . since they knowingly and actively participated in Hitler's war." Goetz was released a few months later.

GREWE, Wilhelm

Chief of Legal Department of West German Foreign Office. Under nazis lectured at Hitlerite "High School for Politics" in Berlin, and described nazi invasion of Soviet Union as "world-historic mission". (GR Vol. III, No. 3.)

HENLE, Guenther

Christian Democratic Deputy in West German Parliament, and Managing Director of the great Kloeckner Steel Trust. Named by Kilgore Committee of US Senate as leading industrial war criminal, and arrested by US authorities for a few weeks in 1946.

HEUSINGER, Lieutenant General Adolf

Chief of General Staff of coming West German Wehrmacht. Former Chief of Operations Branch of Hitlerite Wehrmacht, in which position he worked out the plans for the attacks on Holland, Belgium and France. In new autobiography "Befehl im Widerstreit" Heusinger blames Hitler for not completely destroying British Army at Dunkirk.

HOERLEIN, Heinrich

Chairman of Directors of chemical firm Bayer AG. Chemical research director of munitions and poison gas firm IG Farben, tried for war crimes by US Court in Nuremberg 1947-48 under indictment which charged that every phase of IG Farben production had been synchronised with nazi command; that trust had looted factories in occupied countries; and been implicated in mass murder of civilians.

JOHN, Otto

Head of West German "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", equivalent to American FBI. Worked for Gestapo in 1933 in framing Dimitrov for allegedly firing the Reichstag in Berlin, and later helped to plan overseas spy network of nazi party.

KESSELRING, Field Marshal Albert

President of right-wing ex-soldiers' organisation "Stahlhelm". Murdered 335 Italian civilians in March 1944, and sentenced to death for this crime by British military court. Released by British authorities in October 1952. (GR Vol. II, No. 4.)

von KIELMANNSEGG, Colonel Count Johann Adolf

Chief of Section I of re-activated West German General Staff. Worked in nazi general staff as assistant to General Heusinger (see above).

KOPF, Hinrich

Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, British Zone. Wanted by the Polish authorities for war crimes committed when Kopf was installed by nazis as "Custodian of Enemy Property" in occupied Poland.

KORDT, Theo

West German Ambassador to Greece. Former nazi diplomat in London and Berne. Admitted at trial of nazi diplomats before US Court in Nuremberg on July 15th 1948 that he had purchased for nazis documents stolen from British Embassy in Rome, and pin-pointed targets in Britain for nazi bombers.

KOST, Heinrich

Member of board of directors of four main Ruhr steel and coal concerns; generally regarded as "coal king" of West Germany. Joined nazi party in 1934, and was named by Hitler "Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrer" (Arms Economic Leader) in 1941.

KRAFT, Waldemar

Minister without Portfolio in West German Cabinet. Former major in Hitler's SS, with membership number 347,148. Worked during war in Nationalities Section of Reich Security Main Office, the central office of the Gestapo. Before the war led German minority in Poland and helped undermine Polish state. From 1945—47 held in British internment camp as dangerous nazi. (GR Vol. II, No. 22 & 23.)

KRUPP VON BOHLEN UND HALBACH, Alfried

Heavy industrialist, arms king, who gives "unlimited support" to West German Government. Looted, plundered and exploited slave workers during nazi war, and was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and confiscation of property by US Court on July 31st 1948 on charges of war crimes. Released and property returned to him by US authorities in February 1951. (GR Vol. II, No. 4.)

KUNTZEN, Lieutenant General

Chairman of the officers' selection board for West German Wehrmacht. Former department chief in personnel section of nazi Wehrmacht, and commanded tank division in 1940 invasion of France.

von LUETTWITZ, Major General Freiherr Smilo

Leading member of officers' selection board for new West German Wehrmacht. Under Hitler commanded tank division in invasion of France, later played leading part in destruction of Warsaw. Sought by Poland as war criminal, but US authorities refused to hand him over. Son of Imperial General Luettwitz who, together with Kapp, led putsch to overthrow German Republic in 1920.

von MANTEUFFEL, General Hasso

Designated as corps commander in West German Wehrmacht. Represents Free Democrats in West German Parliament. Former commander of SS tank division "Greater Germany".

MATZKI, General Gerhard

Inspector General of the West German Frontier Forces. Professional soldier, member of German General Staff from 1924, Military Attaché in Tokio under Hitler, Quarter Master General on Wehrmacht General Staff from 1939.

MELCHERS, Wilhelm

Personnel Department, West German Foreign Ministry. One-time head of Oriental Department in nazi Foreign Ministry. Evidence was given at Nuremberg War Crimes Trials that he was directly responsible for gassing of 600 Jewish children. (GR Vol. I, No. 6.)

von MERKATZ, Hans

Member of West German Parliament, leader of the parliamentary fraction of the right-wing "German Party". During the war he was General Secretary of the "Latin American Institute" in Berlin, training school for nazi agents in Spanish speaking countries. He was accessory after the fact in the murder in May 1944 of Mr Arthur Yenken, Acting British Minister to Madrid. (GR Vol. II, No. 2.)

OBERLAENDER, Theodor

Minister for Expellees in West German Cabinet. Formerly major in the SA, nazi storm troops, attached to Gauleiter of East Prussia. He became "Reichsfuehrer" of the Federation of Germans in the East, classified after the war by the allies as dangerous nazi organisation. Since the war has made repeated speeches calling for conquest of east: "One day Germans will stand once again on soil which we have only temporarily lost". ("Der Allgauer", May 5th 1953.). (GR Vol. II, No. 22 & 23.)

PFERDMENGES, Robert

Christian Democratic member of West German Parliament, banker, director of 42 companies, personal friend and adviser of Chancellor Adenauer. Richest man in West Germany. Laid foundations of fortune by "aryanising" Jewish-owned Cologne banking house of Oppenheim under nazis. Named as war criminal on list of "Industrial Criminals" drawn up in 1945 by Kilgore Committee of US Senate. (GR Vol. II, No. 19.)

PREUSKER, Viktor Emmanuel

Housing Minister in West German Cabinet. "Herr Preusker joined a motorised unit of the Storm Troops in Berlin in 1933 when he was 20 years of age. He joined the SS about the same time". ("New York Times", January 17th 1954.). Preusker became SS instructor in "Racial Questions" and "aryanisation expert" for the Dresdner Bank. In 1939 he received a special diploma from the bank for his work "in freeing German economy from the Jewish yoke". (GR Vol. II, No. 22.)

SCHAEFFER, Fritz

Minister of Finance in West German Cabinet. Fervent Hitler suporter who wrote: "Adolf Hitler is the renovator of the Reich" ("Regensburger Anzeiger" May 4th 1933). Removed from office in Bavaria in September 1945 by US military authorities, who stated: "Schaeffer must be regarded as a nazi sympathiser and nazi collaborator . . . always a representative of ultranationalist and militarist philosophy." (GR Vol. II, No. 22.)

SCHACHT, Hjalmar

Head of big Dusseldorf foreign trade bank, with interests in many parts of Africa and Asia. Formerly Hitler's Plenipotentiary for War Economy, and after the war classified as "major nazi offender" by West German denazification court. (GR Vol. II, No. 12.)

SCHROEDER, Gerhard

West German Minister of Interior. Joined the nazi party in 1933, and expressed his nazi feelings in newspaper article stating: "The German philosophy is founded on blood, soil, struggle and need." ("Frankfurter Zeitung," July 14th 1937.) (GR Vol. II, No. 22.)

Details given in brackets at the end of some of the biographies on these pages refer to back numbers of GERMAN REPORT in which fuller biographical details may be found. A few copies of nearly all these numbers are available for readers interested.

SCHWENNICKE, Carl Hubert

Deputy Chairman of Free Democratic Party in West Germany, and leader of the party in West Berlin. Former Gestapo agent. (GR Vol. I, No. 12.)

SCHWERIN, Colonel Count Gerhard

Commander of "German Service Organisation", para-military body attached to British occupation forces; designated as corps commander in West German Wehrmacht. Commanded nazi 116th Tank Division on eastern front.

SEEBOHM, Hans Christoph

Minister of Transport in West German Cabinet. Open supporter of German conquests in eastern Europe: "It is impossible to deny that all that had been German remained German, and would become part of Germany again". ("Spiegel" Hamburg, November 19th 1952.) "German culture can only be found where Germans live" he stated in a speech at Ruedesheim on August 9th 1952. (GR Vol. I, No. 24.)

SONNENHOL, Gustav Adolf

Head of Press Department in West German Ministry for Economic Cooperation. Joined the nazi storm troopers in 1930, and became SS officer in 1933. During the war acted as liaison officer between nazi Foreign Ministry and Reich Security Office, which administered concentration camps. In 1944 was appointed head of "Murder Section Inland II" which administered nazi political trials.

SPEIDEL, General Hans

Adviser to West German War Minister Theodor Blank. Former general staff officer of Wehrmacht Army Group "B" on Ukrainion Front, responsible for burning of hundreds of villages. Drew up first post-war plans for West German rearmament together with his brother, General Wilhelm Speidel, former nazi military governor in Greece, who was at that time serving twenty year sentence for murdering thousands of Greek civilians. Wilhelm Speidel was amnestied by US authorities, February 1951.

You Ask — We Answer:

QUESTIONS ON POLICE & FOOD

"You keep on criticising conscription for a new German Wehrmacht in West Germany; what about the conscription for the People's Police in the East?"

B. A., Leeds, England.

The Editor replies:

In order to distract attention from the plans to introduce conscription in West Germany, Adenauer's propagandists have have been busily putting around the stories about "conscription to the Peoples Police" in the German Democratic Republic, and about alleged expansion of the force.

The East German Ministry of the Interior officially announced on March 9th this year that all recruiting to the People's Police was purely to replace men whose term of engagement had expired. There was no change in the strength of the police units, this official announcement stated, and all western press reports about planned conscription were simply inventions.

Incidentally all questions about alleged "huge police forces" in East Germany could easily have been clarified if the western powers had agreed to one of the proposals made by Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov at the Berlin Conference. On February 17th Molotov proposed the following draft resolution:

"The Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deem it desirable that an agreement be reached concerning German Police in East and West Germany, including questions of the number and armament of all types of police."

The proposal was completely ignored by the western foreign ministers. Repeated similar proposals to discuss the strength of East and West German police forces, made by the East German Government, have been similarly ignored by the West German authorities.

* * *

"Papers here keep on talking about famine and starvation in East Germany. 'U. S. News and World Report' said on February 19th: 'In East Germany... crisis is expected in April, when the food shortage will become acute."

"What is the truth?"

D. N. Detroit, Mich., USA.

You can go into any shop in any town in East Germany and buy a loaf of bread — or a dozen loaves of bread if you like. If it is a well run shop, then you can take all your twelve loaves in different styles — fine white bread, milk bread, round black cottage loaves, rye bread, full-grain bread, and the rest in varieties I do not even know the names of.

Then you can go into the grocery store next door and buy macaroni and noodles — thirty different varieties on the market now — flour, meat extract cubes, and all the dozens of other things which clutter up the kitchen cupboard.

And you can buy the things I have named in any quantities you want, at prices in most cases considerably cheaper than in West Germany, where average wages are rather lower than in East Germany.

Two pounds of the black bread usually eaten in German families cost 40 pfennigs in East Germany, and 52 pfennigs in West Germany; two pounds of potatoes cost 11 pfennigs in East Germany, and 19 pfennigs in West Germany.

What about butter to go on the bread, and meat to go with the potatoes? Rationing is still in force in East Germany for meat, fats and sugar. There are different categories of ration card according to the work done. Here are the monthly rations provided in the German Democratic Republic on the lowest category of card, given to pensioners, sedentary workers, etc:

Meat: 1350 grammes (about 43 ounces),
Fats: 900 grammes (about 29 ounces),
Sugar: 1200 grammes (about 39 ounces).

All other ration card holders get more; a heavy worker, for instance, gets nearly twice as much meat and fat, and 50 % more sugar. Children get the entire fat ration in butter.

(For comparison, people in Britain get slightly more fat on their cards, about the same amount of meat, and until sugar rationing was abolished recently almost exactly the same amount of sugar, as the people who receive the minimum ration cards in East Germany. I do not recall any recent articles in the US press claiming that the people in Britain are starving.)

A very important point is that all rationed foodstuffs are very cheap, and have not gone up in price in the past few years. A typical family with two children spends just under 50 marks on the purchase of rationed foods every month; precisely the same goods would cost over 80 marks in West Germany, and prices there are steadily rising. (A full analysis of East-West prices was given in GERMAN REPORT dated September 4th 1953; a copy will be sent to readers on request.)

Anyone who wants more butter or meat than he gets on his ration card can buy them at "free market" prices, which average between two and three times rations prices. Government policy is steadily to reduce free market prices, and it is hoped soon that the double price standard will be abolished, and ration cards ended.

Are there no shortages? Yes, there are. The range of vegetables and fruit is still not so extensive as it might be, although big supplies of canned and deep-frozen goods are now on the market. Imported fruit, such as grapefruit, oranges and bananas are still very expensive.

But anyone who talks about "famine" in East Germany is, to put it politely, talking through his hat.

Footnote: In 1936, Germans ate 18.7 lbs of butter per head. In 1953, butter consumption in "starving" East Germany was 19.3 lbs per head, and consumption in 1954 was expected to rise to 22 lbs.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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Germany.

Two Million Jobless

The official figure of unemployment in West Germany rose to 2,042,107 at the end of February 1954, the highest figure since currency reform in 1948.

In East Germany there is no unemployment.

"Let the Rosenberg Children Come to East Germany"

Michael and Robbie Rosenberg, orphan children now being persecuted by the American authorities, should be returned to their rightful foster-parents, or should be allowed to come to the German Democratic Republic, where they could grow up in peace. A resolution to this effect was passed at a mass meeting in East Berlin called to protest the persecution of the children.

They are the orphan children of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, murdered in Sing Sing in June 1953 on a framed-up charge of atom espionage. In February 1954 the children were torn away from their foster-parents and sent to an orphanage.

Tax Cut for Big Incomes

The West German Government announced a "great tax reduction" on March 11th.

Under the terms of the tax cuts, corporation tax will be sharply reduced, and income tax will be cut, principally on very large incomes. A married man with one child, earning 6000 marks (about 500 pounds or 1400 dollars) yearly will have a cut of 6% in his tax. If he earns 500,000 marks (over 40,000 pounds or 15,000 dollars) his taxes are cut by 25%.

"Protest Now" — G. D. H. Cole

Opponents of German re-armament must protest now, wrote famous British Labour veteran G. D. H. Cole in the London "New Statesman and Nation" on March 6th.

"First and most obviously, we must work hard to ensure that every section of the Labour movement understands what is at stake, sends resolutions of protest to Mr. Attlee and to Transport House — to the T. U. C. as well as to the Labour Party — and also to the Co-operative Party and the Co-operative Union . . .

"We must make it plain to our own leaders, as well as to the Government, that, if they persist in their present line, they must expect formidable and persistent opposition from a large body of opinion, and must not expect our co-operation when their chickens come home to roost. If they persist, we must throw them out . . ."

Youth to Rally In Berlin at Whitsun

Hundreds of thousands of young Germans from both halves of Germany will travel to Berlin at Whitsun 1954 for the second great Whitsun Rally organised by the Free German Youth.

The first Whitsun Rally in 1950 was attended by more than 500,000 young people, and gave the world one of the first proofs of the strength of the new democratic youth movement for a better and unmilitaristic Germany.

The 1954 Whitsun Rally will be a great demonstration for a peaceable Germany, and against conscription plans for a new Wehrmacht in West Germany.

RETRACTION PLEASE!

By the Editor

On January 7th the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews passed a resolution deprecating the growth of neo-fascism in West Germany. In the same resolution it was stated "in East Germany a similar position obtains, in that several well-known nazis are Ministers in the East German Government".

On February 15th I wrote to the Foreign Affairs Comittee pointing out that not a single Minister in East Germany had been a nazi, and that every minister had a good anti-nazi record, and asking for a withdrawal of a statement which was clearly libellous.

Here is the continuation of the correspondence:

From: A. G. Brotman, Secretary, The Board of Deputies of British Jews, London
To: John Peet, Editor, Democratic German Report, Berlin

23rd February 1954

Dear Sir,

I am desired to thank you for your letter of February 15th, in which you query that portion of our statement given in a recent report to the Board of Deputies which says that in East Germany a position obtains, similar to that in West Germany, that there are several former Nazis who are ministers in the East German Government.

I need hardly say that our information — both in regard to East and West Germany — was given on the basis of information from sources which we know to be reliable. We had, and still have, no reason to doubt the accuracy of this information, but we have to recognise that there are possibilities of error in some of the details which we have received about these former nazis. **In the circumstances we feel it would be inadvisable to publish names and other details.**

I would emphasise that the information we have received regarding East Germany is of the same nature and from the same sources as the information regarding West Germany, and that therefore we cannot accept an inference which might be drawn from your letter that it is only the information regarding Nazism in West Germany which can be accepted . . .

* * *

From: John Peet, Editor, Democratic German Report, Berlin
To: A. G. Brotman, Secretary, The Board of Deputies of British Jews, London

March 13th 1954

Dear Sir,

Your letter of February 23rd in reply to our letter of February 15th can only be regarded as most unsatisfactory.

The resolution passed by your Foreign Affairs Committee on January 7th stated flatly "several well-known nazis are Ministers in the East Germany Government".

When asked to give details of this monstrous allegation, you "feel it inadvisable to publish names".

I, and I think most of the readers of GERMAN REPORT, in which this correspondence will be published, will regard this as an admission that you yourself have no confidence in the truth of your allegation.

Might I remind you that the Ninth Commandent of Moses states: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

I would urge you again to make a public retraction of your statement.

Yours sincerely, John Peet

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

The notebook this week should perhaps better be called "West German Notebook", since I have gathered together here a number of small notices about life today in West Germany. Here they are, without further comment:

The eastern frontier of Germany for the past nine years has run along the Oder-Neisse Rivers, the line agreed upon by Britain, America and the Soviet Union in the Potsdam Agreement. The District Court of Cologne, British Zone of West Germany, has now decided that if an atlas sold in West Germany shows this frontier, and the fact that the territory to the east of this frontier is part of Poland, then this atlas is defective "under the terms of Paragraph 459 of the Civil Code" and the purchaser cannot be forced to pay for it. No such objection is raised to atlases and maps which show large parts of France, Poland and Africa as "rightfully belonging to Germany".

(Details of this case were given on March 7th in the West Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel" under the headline "This is the least that one can demand". The "Tagesspiegel" is printed on presses stolen during the war by the nazis from the Jewish newspaper "Moment" in Warsaw.

Coddled Criminals

Dr. van Dam, Secretary General of the "Council of Jews in Germany" has protested officially against the fact that all nazi war criminals now released after serving terms of imprisonment are being treated by the West German state as "delayed returnees". The granting of this status entitles them to an immediate state credit of 10,000 marks (nearly 1000 pounds sterling), a grant to establish themselves in civilian life, and a pension.

Totalitarian

A Social Democratic anti-nazi fighter was executed by the nazis in Speyer on March 19th 1945 a few weeks before the end of the war because he had been caught listening to foreign radio stations. After the war his widow was granted the special pension then given to dependents of those who had been murdered by the nazis. In February 1954 the Government Office for Restitution in the district centre of Neustadt cancelled the pension on the following grounds:

By John Peet

"The executed man was a supporter of totalitarian aims, and wished to bring to power a regime at least as illegal as the nazis".

In addition the court decided that since in February 1945 there was a (nazi) law against hearing foreign radios, the execution had been legally justified.

Swastika

The West German Government has named Wolfgang A. Jaenicke as Minister to the Vatican. On February 2nd 1954 the "Koelnische Rundschau" of Cologne, a respectable Christian Democratic newspaper, printed a short biography of the new minister with the remark: "Minister Jaenicke was removed from office by the National Socialists". In the next column was a photograph of Herr Jaenicke, obviously an old photograph from the files, and without any difficulty at all any attentive reader could see a large and flamboyant swastika badge stuck in his tie.

Treason?

Just 12 months ago on March 10th 1953, West German secret police arrested Josef Angenforth at 11 a. m. while he was walking down the main street of Dusseldorf, British Zone. The arrest was illegal, since Herr Angenforth is a member of the Provincial Parliament of North Rhine Westphalia, and possesses parliamentary immunity.

Despite this, at the date of writing Josef Angenforth is still confined in prison at Karlsruhe, awaiting trial on a charge of "connection with a treasonable undertaking". The "treasonable" undertaking is the activity of the Free German Youth in West Germany, directed against the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht.

"Inefficient" Adenauer

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is not looking forward particularly to the arrival of the new British Commander in Chief of Occupation troops — General Sir Gerald Templer. In 1945 General Templer was British Military Governor in the Rhineland area, and in this capacity he sacked Konrad Adenauer from his position as Lord Mayor of Cologne for "inefficiency".

Bad Taste

In 1945, after the nazis had been overthrown, American troops who liberated Dachau concentration camp turned the crematorium into a memorial to the tens of thousands who had died there. One of the rooms of the crematorium was used to display photographs of nazi brutality — SS guards bludgeoning concentration camp inmates, a man being electrocuted on the wire fence of the camp, and so on.

The "New York Herald Tribune" dated March 8th reports that "about nine months ago the local German authorities prevailed upon the American command... to remove the pictures, which were offensive to good taste and harmful to an improvement in international relations."

(Daily Express, London)

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